customs duty to the tune of Rs. 29,00,439.30; at New Delhi on 19-10-87 alleging evasion of customs duty to the tune of Rs. 29,00,439.30; at New Delhi on 19-10-87 alleging evasion of Customs duty to the tune of Rs. 7,72,229.74 at Bombay on 26-10-87 alleging evasion of Duty to the tune of Rs. 75,09,846.77; in respect of 3 separate imports viz .—

(1) 14 units of web offset printing machines imported at Madras;

(2) Photo composing equipment imported at Bombay,

(3) Electronic colour scanner imported at Delhi

Amendments in Minimum Wages Act

1089. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Labour Ministry has proposed an amendment in the Minimum Wages Act enabling the labourers to claim their minimum wages at the block level;

(b) whether Government are aware of the tardy implementation of the Minimum Wages Act in various States in the agricultural sectors; and

(c) what other amendments are being proposed in the Minimum Wages Act to enable the workers to get minimum wages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) A number of suggestions have been made for amendment of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 to make it more effective and provide expeditious relief to the employees covered under the Act. These include *inter-alia*, reviewing the rates of minimum wages at short intervals unless these have variable component of Dearness Allowance, enhancement in the compensation amount, payment of interest in case of non-payment and short payment of wages, deposit of a part of the claimed amount, restrictions on change in the conditions of service during the pendency of claims proceedings and enhancement of penalties, etc. The proposals for amendment are yet to be finalised. The subject of implementation of minimum wages for the unorganised labour in the scheduled employments including agriculture was discussed at the 36th session of the Labour Ministers' Conference held in May, 1987, important conclusions were reached and action was recommended for removing difficulties in enforcement.

Combing Operation in the Golden Temple Complex

1090. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE :
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the security forces have been successful in October, 1987 in combing the hideouts in and around the Golden Temple Complex in Amritsar to apprehend the terrorists and militants taking shelter therein and operating therefrom and to unearth arms and ammunition dumps; and

(b) if so, how many terrorists were apprehended indicating the details of noteworthy terrorists arrested/killed during the combing operations and the nature and extent of arms-dumps seized in the process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) The result of action taken in this regard has been encouraging. One terrorist committed suicide and two were arrested. One pistol and cartridges were recovered from them

Report of RBI on Economy

1091 SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank in a recent report forecast a gloomy picture of the country's economy for the year 1987-88 resulting from among other things shortage of inputs for farming and industry and pleaded for urgent steps for checking price increase; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) and (b) The RBI report has noted that the severe drought of the current year is likely to have adverse impact on the production, prices and other sectors of the economy. The Government has taken a series of measures to maximise agricultural production in the rabi season and to maintain a check on the price rise The Government's anti inflationary strategy includes effective demand and supply management like strengthening of the Public Distribution System, allocation of additional stocks of foodgrains to drought affected areas, augmenting domestic availability of essential commodities like sugar, edible oils and pulses through imports, mopping up of excess liquidity in the system and strict action against hoarders and blackmarketeers.

Hardships caused to tribals by strict implementation of Forest Conservation Act

1092. SHRI AJIT P K JOGI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that strict implementation of Forest Conservation Act is causing undue hardship to the poor tribals living in and around forest areas; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to amend the Act suitably so that the essential requirements of the tribals are easily met ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z R. ANSARI) : (a) No case of hardship to tribal population has come to the notice of this Ministry.

(b) Question does not arise.

12.00 NOON

STATEMENT OF MINISTER

Correcting the reply given in the Rajya Sabha on the 6th May, 1986 to unstarred Question 1059, regarding unaccounted money distributed by two Shaikhs in Kerala.

MR. CHAIRMAN Now, Mr. Gadhvi to make a statement....

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Andhra Pradesh) . Sir, I am on a point of order. I may be permitted before he lays the statement on the Table It is about the statement. Sir, the unaccounted money that was circulated and distributed by foreigners in our country is of two crimes that have been compounded into one. One is foreigners. And the second is..

MR. CHAIRMAN : Just a minute.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: He is giving a statement correcting it.

MR. CHAIRMAN . I want to know what is your point of order

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: My point of order is this. The reply was given by the Government in May, 1986. And now after one and half a years they are coming up with a statement correcting it. Sir, May I elaborate, Sir, on this a little ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : They have come late. That is all. On the point of order, there is no elaboration. You have raised the point of order that the correction is so late. That is all

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : And he must explain why it took one and a half years. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : If the points of orders go like this, then.....

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE (West Bengal) : Sir, What pleased him to continue with that to so long (*Interruptions.*)

MR. CHAIRMAN . What she is raising is a relevant one.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : Sir, the point that there was delay in giving this correction....

MR. CHAIRMAN : She wants to know why there is this delay. When you correct an answer, it must be done at the earliest.

SHRI B. K. GADHVI : Yes, Sir. It was because this agency was abroad. After enquiries and other things, we got it. And, therefore, in my statement I have mentioned that the delay in correcting the reply